CONFIDENTIAL

92-00320

C. M. McCaw

Hospital,
June 19, 1950.

Pulmonary Malignancy

On June 12th Dr. Cartier and I visited Dr. Lanza at his Institute of Industrial Medicine in New York. We met Dr. Nelson of the Institute and Dr. William Smith of Memorial and Sloan-Kettering. The problem of asbestos and lung cancer was discussed and these men were asked if it would be possible to carry out some research in this field.

Materials to be used in any experiments would probably be:-

1 - Three types of pure fibre:-

(a) Vimy
(b) J-M or King
(c) South African Blue and Munroe

These fibres should be used in two lengths:

1 - Short - 2-3 microns
2 - Long - 15-50 microns

11 - Atmospheric asbestos and rock dust samples taken at the breathing level of workers in the mills.

Dr. Lanza and his group will prepare a program for experimental studies, the approximate length of time it will take for the study and the cost. Dr. Cartier and I will receive copies of this proposal.

On June 13th I visited Dr. Vorwald in Saranac Lake and asked him to submit a program similar to that of Dr. Lanza. When these two programs are received Dr. Cartier and I will be able to make recommendations to the Q.A.M.A.

Today it is impossible to say whether the research program should be carried out at Saranac or New York, or the two centres in collaboration. Possibly no animal experiments for publication should be contemplated today, but rather we should have a statistical survey of our men and x-rays as well as the general population in our two towns. No one knows the cause of cancer in the lung and it is impossible to correlate absolutely the findings in animals and humans in this field. For this reason it may be advisable first to study our people who live and work in the dust.

A further report will be made when the recommendations to the Q.A.M.A. are ready.

KWS/h.n.

Kenneth W. Smith, M.D.

CC - K. V. Lindell
A. R. Fisher, GHQ, Box 91
J. P. Woodard, GHQ, Box 91